Dismissed Employees of ITDC

413. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of ITDC who were dismissed without issue of show cause notice during 1996-97;

(b) whether any system of natural justice is being followed by ITDC; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) According to the ITDC management, no ITDC employees was dismissed during 1996-97 (upto Jan. 1997) without issuing him show cause notice and providing opportunities to defend his case. However, services of Shri P.K. Rastogi, General Manager (Hotel Sales) were terminated on 17 Dec. 96 for concealment of information/ furnishing of false information at the time of appointment. He has filed a case in the Delhi High Court against termination of his services and the cause is sub-judice.

(b) The disciplinary action against the delinquent employees of ITDC is regulated as per the provisions of codified rules and followed principles of natural justice.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of Tourism in Bihar

414. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes sanctioned by the Union Government for the development of tourism in Bihar alongwith details during the last five years;

(b) how many out of them have remained incomplete and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which they are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) The Department of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to the State/UT Governments for setting up of Tourist Complexes, Lodges, Reception Centres, Wayside Amenities, Yatri Niwases, Sound and Light Shows, Refurbishment of monuments, Fairs and Festivals and Publicity material. The Department of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 489.90 lakhs for 30 such schemes to the Government of Bihar during the last five years.

(b) and (c) The implementation of Tourism projects is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. Out of the projects sanctioned, the State Government has provided Completion Certificates for four projects.

Facilities to Amarnath Pilgrims

415. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some requests for provision of more facilities to pilgrims to Amarnath have been reqeusted;

(b) whether these requests also include provision of security to pilgrims from terrorism;

(c) whether these requests also include provision of comforts and facilities to pilgrims on par with Haj pilgrims;

(d) whether Government propose to regulate the journey of these pilgrims; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and, if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (e) A popular Government has since taken charge in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and the security arrangements in connection with the Amarnath Yatra and provisions of additional facilities at par with the Haj pilgrims etc. come under the State's purview. However, Dr. Sengupta, who was appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Jammu & Kashmir Affairs as a one-man commission of Inquiry to look into the various aspects of the Amarnath Yatra tragedy that had struck in August, 1996, had, in his report made a number of recommendations including various measures on providing safety/ facilities to the pilgrims. A copy of the report was also placed on the Table of the House on 18th December, 1996. Follow up action on the said report has been initiated by the State Government.